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**Driver Sentenced for Death of  
His Passenger in School Bus Crash**

A Pearblossom man was sentenced today to 10 years in state prison for the death of his passenger, killed when he crashed a stolen car into an empty school bus in Palmdale, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Seza Mikikian said Douglas Vernon Fiddament, 20, entered a no contest plea on June 16 to one count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated in case MA065130.

On Jan. 12, Fiddament was driving a stolen pickup truck with an RV trailer attached when he crashed into a school bus with no children aboard, the prosecutor said. The defendant's passenger, Manuel Lopez, 33, was killed in the crash.

Fiddament was under the influence of methamphetamines, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Palmdale Station.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.